



State Interagency Coordinating Council for Tennessee's Early Intervention System

April 23, 2013
9:00 am – 12:00 pm (CT)

Meeting Minutes

ICC Members in Attendance:

Ned Andrew Solomon-TN Council on Developmental Disabilities
Robyn Ridgley-Middle Tennessee State University
Gladys Harris-Family Partners
Louise Barnes-Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Kiersten Kinder-Vanderbilt University, Susan Gray School
Janet Coscarelli-Head Start Collaboration Office
Dolly Gerregano-Part B 619, Department of Education
Joey Hassell-Department of Education
Vicki Peterson-TNCARE

ICC Guests in Attendance:

Linda Hartbarger-Department of Education
Sarah Hunt-Child Development Centers
Donna McConnico-Signal Centers
Jerry Bush-Department of Education
Rene Bard-Tennessee Early Intervention System
Elizabeth Hailey- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Margaret Headrick- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Pat Cooper- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Sherree Sinclair- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Beverly Bell- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Teresa Winnette-Child Development Centers
Ruthe Threet- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Lynette Porter-Council on Developmental Disabilities
Amy Jenkins-Siskin Children's Institute
Amanda Dunlap-MTSU Home and Community Early Intervention
Regina Bowman- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Barbara Thomas- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Mitzi Myers- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Jennifer Curtis-Metro Action Commission, Head Start
Janice Phillips-Metro Action Commission, Early Head Start
Rebecca Gassett-TNAAP
Gayle Coleman-Siskin Children's Institute
Anna Ramsbottom-Emory Valley Center
Georgia Garrett- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Anne Johns- Tennessee Early Intervention System
Lise Earwood- Tennessee Early Intervention System

MEETING:

Opening/Welcome

SICC Chair Gladys Harris opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees. The SICC members, lead agency staff, and guests introduced themselves and identified their respective agencies and roles.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was motioned to approve by Ned Solomon, seconded by Louise Barnes.

Approval of Minutes of October Meeting

There was a motion to approve the January 22, 2013 minutes by Gladys Harris, seconded by Dolly Gerregano.

Agency and Program Reporting

Department of Education Update-Assistant Commissioner Joey Hassell

There will be a reorganization of 8 core offices resulting in a more consolidated approach in providing services to children and families.

Part C Application Update-Joan Kennedy

The Part C application was submitted to OSEP on April 19. It was posted on the TEIS website for 60 days for public comment.

State of Tennessee Rules and Regulations Update-Joan Kennedy

State regulations are in line with specifics to Tennessee and are in pending status with the final results expected back by June 30. These are posted on the State website. There have been no changes in regard to eligibility levels. There is a 45 day timeline for children in TEIS to have an evaluation, meet eligibility requirements and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) in place, 40 days if not a TEIS child.

Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Performance Plan (SPP) Updates-Catherine Goodwin

The revised State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR) were submitted Feb. 1 to the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). We anticipate receiving preliminary feedback by end of April for the "Period of Clarification."

The SPP/APR was originally a 6-year plan which has been extended for two additional years. FFY 2012-13 is the last year for using the current format and process. Last reports will be submitted Feb. 3, 2014. OSEP posted proposed changes to the SPP/APR package on the Federal Register on April 16 for a 60-day comment period, ending June 14. A few noteworthy changes proposed:

- Results Driven Accountability (RDA)
- Combined SPP/APR – data to be uploaded to a data system for submission
- State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) – new, separate document in addition to SPP/APR with a two to three year phase-in

Catherine can make available to any interested information to access and/or make comments regarding proposed changes.

2013 March Report to the Public-Catherine Goodwin

IDEA requires states to provide public access to each Early Intervention Service (EIS) Program's performance on targets. In Tennessee, EIS Programs are defined as the nine TEIS Point of Entry Offices (TEIS-POEs). The Part C public report entitled, *March 2013 Report to the Public* is posted on TEIS website under "Reports/Data" at http://www.tennessee.gov/education/teis/reports_data.shtml. This report compares each TEIS-POE's data from FFY 2011-12 APR indicators relative to compliance and result indicator targets.

EIS Program Determinations-Catherine Goodwin

IDEA requires states to make annual program determinations for their local EIS Programs (i.e., TEIS-POEs). OSEP does this annually on all states. There are four determination categories: 1.) Meets Requirements, 2.) Needs Assistance, 3.) Needs Intervention, and 4.) Needs Substantial Intervention. Tennessee has been in Meets Requirements for the past three years (since FFY 2008-09). We anticipate continuing in Meets Requirements based on FFY 2011-12 data. State determinations are typically made in June. OSEP has informed states that state determinations this year will be based on results indicator data (new) along with customary compliance data.

This year the Early Childhood IDEA Programs (ECIP) staff revisited the way program determinations have been made for the TEIS-POEs. Changes are being made to: 1) Better align with departmental initiatives and with OSEP's turning focus toward results and 2) Develop a more objective (data driven) determination decision process.

Janet Coscarelli made remarks related to early childhood outcomes when looking at child progress and the importance of collaboration among other early childhood state programs and initiatives using best practice when working toward positive results for early childhood development. She informed and encouraged participation at the upcoming Early Childhood Summit, July 15th and 16th. Paul Tough will be a featured speaker at the summit. Janet highly recommended his book, *How Children Succeed*, to all working in early childhood.

ICC Business

ICC Representative Update

Jill said there were still vacancies available for parent representatives for ICC nomination. Two possibilities are available from the Chattanooga and Lenoir City areas. Ned Solomon will follow up with those that are interested.

Appointed candidates can participate either by phone or in person as reimbursement for mileage is included within state rates. A Legislative representative is still needed; nominations can be addressed to either Gladys Harris or Jill Rigsby.

Jill asked Council members how much and in what format they wanted their contact information shared on the States' website. Council members Name, Agency and Email address will be added for inclusion on the States' website.

Member Agency/Program Updates

Louise Barnes with Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse shared that their new program director is Kristy Leach.

Janet Coscarelli shared that the Early Childhood Summit will take place on July 15-16, 2013 at the new Nashville Convention Center. The new School Readiness Model will be introduced and a new website and app titled *KidsCentral/TN*. It will feature an available website and app designed to help parents navigate their way to the appropriate state agency when they have questions regarding aspects of their child's development.

Janet shared that there is a proposed large sum of money coming for Early Head Start which would help to serve some 60,000 children nationally at the poverty level or below. It is tied to the universal pre-K program initiated by DOE Secretary Arne Duncan. This initiative is tied to additional taxes on tobacco products but the state's current initiative on stopping smoking in adults and teens would mean a reduction in monies collected. Information on this is available on the SECA site. The Southern states would bare the biggest brunt of both socio-economic and educational losses.

There will also be a focus on how well teachers are interacting with their students through Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) evaluation system. For pre-K the focus will be on comprehensive services as well as educational.

Ned Solomon with TN Council on Developmental Disabilities shared that Youth Readiness Trainings were offered to interested high school students with developmental disabilities in 2012-2013. They recently saw 30 kids in Claiborne Co, estimates to see 120 by end of this fiscal year. Discusses what kids will do with their life after high school.

Claudia Weber shared that she participated in the EDDY conference that was held in Arizona earlier this month.

Public awareness opportunities to promote newborn hearing are forthcoming.

Georgia Garrett with TEIS Upper Cumberland said the office's numbers are growing but they are holding steady in the numbers of kids they currently see.

Donna McConnico with Signal Centers shared they are working on public awareness efforts partnering with Siskin.

Pat Cooper, District Administrator for TEIS Knoxville shared they are planning to hire additional service coordinators to balance out current caseloads and focusing on the community aspect of child find.

Sarah Hunt with Child Development Centers said they are focusing on an understanding of EIRA's. Wanda Willis has joined to provide collaboration.

Ruthe Threet, District Administrator with TEIS Murfreesboro said the office is steadily growing in numbers of referrals and that filling open service coordinator positions will help them serve more children as well as balance caseloads of current service coordinators.

Beverly Bell, District Administrator with TEIS Memphis said they currently serve 1,375 children, 638 of which have Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP). There are plans to add three new staff members. They are improving in Early Child Outcome (ECO) figures and participated in the Early Intervention (EI) conference recently. The office also participated with the Department of Children's Services (DCS) stakeholders meeting from across the Shelby and Memphis areas. Combined there were more than 50 resources available for children and families. Beverly shared that they are still networking with Achievement School District (ASD).

Margaret Headrick shared that the Early Intervention Resource Agencies (EIRA) conference held at Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro was successful with more than 25 scholarships awarded to deserving EIRA's.

Beth Hailey, District Administrator with TEIS Jackson shared that they are planning to hire three service coordinators for the office. They've also recently added two counties to the district they serve thus increasing their territorial size.

Rene Bard, District Administrator with TEIS Martin shared that her office is participating in Screening Tools and Referral Training (START) with the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (TNAAP) which offers primary care providers the knowledge, skills and strategies to make routine developmental and behavioral screening a part of their health care protocol identifying young children with potential developmental disabilities early and referring them to TEIS.

Regina Bowman, District Administrator with TEIS Johnson City shared that her office is currently serving 600 children.

Public Input

Sarah Hunt asked the question if Tennessee was designated as an underserved state on a national scale. Linda Hartbarger will address that in the next SICC meeting.

Topic requests for next meeting

Organizational Chart on state website possibly for non-members of ICC.

Community Support for Early Intervention Resource Agencies (EIRA)

Credentialing-RFP is in contract's hands

Curriculum to train Early Interventionists (EI)

Home visiting program speaker

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next ICC Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 2013